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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/613,983	07/11/2000	Robert C. Leah	RSW9-2000-0044-US1	1817

7590 07/01/2004

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EXAMINER

TRAN, TONGOC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2134

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/613,983

Applicant(s)

LEAH ET AL.

Examiner

Tongoc Tran

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 May 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on 5/5/2004.

Claims 1, 9, 12-13, 21, 24-25, 33 and 36 are amended. Claims 1-36 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. In response to Applicant's remark on independent claims 1, 13 and 25. Applicant contends that Blakley teaches "propagating already stored information" whereas "applicant's claims are directed toward propagating an identifying secret that has been transmitted from the client" (applicant's remark on page 16-17). Blakley discloses that user must be authenticated before accessing DCE environment (col. 2, lines 34-45), and since users are communicated to the security server (PSA) (Fig. 3A) and the security server encompasses the DCE registry (col. 2, lines 55-67). Furthermore, Blakley teaches most registries stores encrypted passwords (col. 2, lines 60-61 and col. 3, lines 11-15). Therefore, it suggests that the propagating plaintext password taught by Blakley are transmitted from the client.

Applicant's arguments with respect to dependent claims 9, 21 and 33 (applicant's remark on page 17) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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Claim 1, 13 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The preamble of claims 1, 13 and 25 recite "propagating security credentials from a trusted master registry". However, the amended portion of the claims recite "propagating the identifying secret of the user directly from the PSA".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-8, 10-20, 22-32 and 34-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blakley, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,323, hereinafter Blakley).

In respect to claim 1, Blakley discloses a computing environment having a connection to a network, a computer program product for securely propagating security credentials from a trusted master registry, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for establishing a secure connection between a client and a password synchronization agent (PSA) (see col. 3, lines 35-46);

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computer-readable program code means for transmitting an identifier of a user and an identifying secret of the user to the PSA over the secure connection (see col. 2, lines 45 and col. 3, lines 35-46);

computer-readable program code means for validating the user with the trusted master registry using the transmitted user identifier and identifying secret on the request of the PSA (see col. 2, line 26-57); and

computer-readable program code means for propagating the identifying secret of the user directly from the PSA to one or more target registries if the validation succeeds (see Fig. 3A col. 2, lines 24-col. 3, lines 20, col. 6, lines 40-60 and col. 7, lines 7-33, the limitation is met because the security server (PSA) encompasses DCE registry, see Fig. 3A, and col. 2, lines 55-57).

In respect to claim 2, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, further comprising:

computer-readable program code means for establishing a second secure connection between the PSA and the trusted master registry (see col. 11, lines 27-31); and

computer-readable program code means for using the second secure connection for the validating of the user (see col. 2, lines 34-44).

In respect to claim 3, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, further comprising:

computer-readable program code means for establishing additional secure connections between the PSA and each of the target registries; and computer-readable

program code means for using the additional secure connections for the propagating of the identifying secret (see col. 8, lines 34-44).

In respect to claim 4, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the master registry stores password synchronization policy information, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for propagating the identifying secret further comprises computer-readable program code means for identifying the target repositories using the stored password synchronization policy information for the user (see col. 3, lines 54-60, col. 5, lines 49-62, col. 6, lines 40-60).

In respect to claim 5, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the master registry stores password synchronization policy information, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for propagating the identifying secret further comprises computer-readable program code means for identifying the target repositories using the stored password synchronization policy information for a user group of which the user is a member (see col. 5, lines 49-62, col. 6, lines 40-60).

In respect to claim 6, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code means for establishing the secure connection further comprises computer-readable program code means for authenticating the PSA to the client (see col. 5, lines 49-62, col. 6, lines 40-60).

In respect to claim 7, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 2, wherein the computer-readable program code means for establishing the

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second secure connection further comprises computer readable program code means for authenticating the master registry to the PSA (see col. 2, lines 34-45).

In respect to claim 8, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 3, wherein the computer-readable program code means for establishing additional secure connections further comprises computer readable program code means for authenticating the one or more target registries to the PSA (see col. 2, lines 34-45).

In respect to claim 10, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code means for validating further comprises computer-readable program code means for invoking an authenticated LDAP bind or other native authentication mechanism of the master registry, wherein the identifier of the user and the identifying secret of the user are passed to the master registry, thereby causing the master registry to validate the passed identifier and identifying secret and return a result which reports a success or failure of the validation (see col. 7, line 52-col. 8, line 4) .

In respect to claim 11, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the PSA has administrative authority for performing operations at the one or more target registries (see col. 11, lines 27-31).

In respect to claim 12, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, further comprising:

computer-readable program code means for obtaining a new value from the user to be used as the propagated identifying secret if the validation succeeds (see col. 2,

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lines 15-54 and col. 7, lines 5-34); and computer-readable program code means for substituting this new value for the identifying secret prior to operation of the computer-readable program code means for propagating (see col. 7, line 52-col. 8, line 4).

In respect to claims 13-20 and 22-24, the claim limitations are system claims that are substantially similar to computer readable medium claims 1-8 and 10-12.

Therefore, claims 13-20 and 22-24 are rejected based on the similar rationale.

In respect to claims 25-32 and 34-36, the claim limitations are method claims that are substantially similar to computer readable medium claims 1-8 and 10-12.

Therefore, claims 25-32 and 34-36 are rejected based on the similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9, 21 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blakley (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,323) in view of Huynh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,184).

In respect to claims 9, 21 and 33, Blakley discloses the computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code means for validating further comprises:

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computer-readable program code means for performing a security function on the identifying secret of the user, wherein the security function comprises one of (i) a one-way hashing algorithm or (ii) an encryption algorithm (see col. 3, lines 9-19);

computer-readable program code means for using the user identifier to locate a previously-stored identifying secret of the user which was stored by the master registry; and computer-readable program code means for comparing the located identifying secret to a result of performing the security function (see col. 2, lines 34-45).

Blakley does not disclose but Huynh discloses means for concluding that the validation succeeds if the located identified secret is identical to a result of performing the security function (Huynh, col. 1, lines 14-54 and col. 2, lines 27-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Blakley's propagating plaintext password with the teaching of Huynh's propagating encrypted password after validating of encrypted password succeeds so that attacker who gains access to the encrypted password can not readily discern the password (Huynh, col. 1, lines 34-37).

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tongoc Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-7690. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory A. Morse can be reached on (703) 308-4789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


GREGORY MORSE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100


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June 25, 2004